

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 241444Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 800

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 1181

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS USNMR SHAPE, USCINCEUR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, DA

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: STATE 091998

1. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT (REFTEL),
I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN TODAY AND URGED
HIM TO RECOGNIZE THE ADVANTAGES TO NATO OF MAKING
SPAIN A MEMBER.

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2. I POINTED OUT THAT THE SPANISH AIR BASES AND NAVAL

BASE ARE A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ANTI-RUSSIAN POSITION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, PARTICULARLY TODAY WHEN NEIGHBORING PORTUGAL IS VEERING FURTHER AND FURTHER TO THE LEFT. I ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT QUITE ASIDE FROM THE PRESENT RATHER REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF PORTUGAL GOING COMMUNIST, HER VALUE AS A NATO ALLY HAS BEEN BADLY DAMAGED BY THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST MINISTERS IN HER GOVERNMENT.

3. WELL AWARE FROM MY YEARS AS AMBASSADOR TO NORWAY OF THE SCANDINAVIAN RELUCTANCE TO HAVE ANY DEALINGS WITH THE FRANCO REGIME, I POINTED OUT THAT NATO MEMBERSHIP WOULD PROMOTE A MORE DEMOCRATIC REACTION IN MADRID. FURTHERMORE, THE GENERALISSIMO IS OLD AND HIS CHANCES OF SURVIVING VERY MUCH LONGER ARE NOT GOOD.

4. ANDERSEN'S REACTION WAS MUCH MORE MODERATE THAN I HAD EXPECTED. HE STARTED OUT BY SAYING THAT HIS GOVT HAD ALREADY BEGUN WRITING POSITION PAPERS BASED ON A POST-FRANCO SPAIN AND EXPLORING METHODS OF HELPING HER BACK TO A DEMOCRATIC STANCE.

5. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SENTIMENT IN THE DANISH PARLIAMENT IS SUCH THAT HE WOULD NOT DARE SUPPORT SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO TODAY. HE SAID THAT ANY SUCH MOVE WOULD ENDANGER THE SUPPORT WHICH NATO ITSELF NOW HAS IN PARLIAMENT. HE PREDICTED THAT ONLY THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE EXTREME CONSERVATIVE PARTY (OUT OF THE TOTAL OF 179) WOULD VOTE FOR IT. (COMMENT: I PRESUME HE WAS REFERRING TO THE CENTER DEMOCRATS WHO ARE NATO'S STRONGEST SUPPORTERS.)

6. ASKED IF FRANCO'S DEATH WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM, HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD ENSUE.

7. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THAT ANDERSEN IS RIGHT AND THAT THE GENERAL REACTION AMONG THE DANISH PUBLIC WOULD BE NEGATIVE, PERHAPS ENOUGH SO TO JEOPARDIZE THE SUPPORT WHICH NATO NOW HAS. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT EVEN THE LEFT-WING SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HAVE SUPPORTED IT SO FAR.

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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